

REMARKS

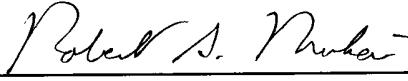
By the present Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependency has been eliminated from the original claims and new dependent claims 13-20 have been added so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims has been preserved. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated February 20, 2002

Marked-up Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12

5. (Amended) A method to promote proliferation of a plant cell, the method comprising incorporation of said gene according to [either one of claim 2 to claim 4] claim 4 into said plant cell.

6. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising said gene according to [either one of claim 2 to claim 4] claim 4 incorporated therein to promote proliferation of said plant cell.

11. (Amended) A method to promote proliferation of a plant cell, the method comprising incorporation of said gene according to [either one of claim 8 to claim 10] claim 10 into said plant cell.

12. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell comprising said gene according to [either one of claim 8 to 10] claim 10 incorporated therein to promote proliferation of said plant cell.